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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLOFIELD AND FLEGG


A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1950.



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Council Offices,  
ACLE.  
:

October, 1951.

To - The Chairman and Members  
of the Blofield and Flegg  
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the  
year nineteen hundred and fifty.

The district remains chiefly agricultural in character.  
The provision of mains water as provided for in proposals already  
submitted to the Ministry of Health was carried one step further  
during the past year by the commencement of borings at Strumpshaw.

Careful consideration of the facts and figures contained  
in this Report show that the health of the district has been  
maintained on a level comparable with other years.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	74,774
Population (estimated resident)	31,890
Number of premises	11,214
Rateable value (1st. April, 1950)	£133,546
Product of a penny rate	£546

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births:-			
Legitimate	423	229	194
Illegitimate	18	5	13
Totals	<u>441</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>207</u>

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 13.83

Stillbirths:- 7 4 3

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 15.63

Deaths:- 308 149 159

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 9.45

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes	1

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Totals	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	45
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-

Births in 1950 were 234 Males and 207 Females, a total of 441 as against a total of 439 births in the year 1949, making an increase of 2 births.

The birthrate in 1950 was 13.83 as against 13.75 in the previous year. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1950 was 16.17.

Deaths during the year were fewer in number and the deathrate was 9.5 as compared with 10.7 for the year 1949. The deathrate per 1000 of the population over England and Wales was 11.6.

The Infant Mortality rate still remains comparatively low and with a total of 8 deaths of children under one year of age shows a decrease of three on last year's figure.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1950:-

(Figures given by the Registrar-General)

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	5	10
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Meningo-coccal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	13	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	27	48
Coronary disease, angina	14	14	28
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	31	30	61
Other circulatory disease	3	4	7
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	8	6	14
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	3	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	34	47
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	6	3	9
Suicide	2	3	5
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All causes	149	159	308



ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1950, IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Totals 1950	Totals 1949
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	3	19	9	2	-	-	-	-	34	52
Erysipelae	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	10
Pneumonia	3	-	1	1	2	5	3	1	6	3	3	4	32	49
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Cholera-Spiral Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	6	7
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	2	-	-	9	4
Measles	6	32	63	43	58	247	21	6	1	-	1	-	478	172
Whooping Cough	9	10	26	28	20	66	7	1	3	-	-	1	171	57
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	5
Eruptive Erythema	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Jaundice	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	1	4	3	1	-	15	16
Glandular Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	18	43	90	73	84	346	42	14	19	9	7	10	755	377

# TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1950.

Age Periods	Notifications					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	1	3	1	4
5 - 15 years	3	2	5	1	1	2
15 - 25 years	3	5	8	3	2	5
25 - 35 years	8	6	14	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	3	4	7	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	5	-	5	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	3	4	-	1	1
65 and over	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	23	22	45	7	5	12

The following table gives an analysis of deaths due to tuberculosis during 1950 -

Age Periods	Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	2	2	4	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	1	1	2	1	-	1
35 - 45 years	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	1	2	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	4	10	1	-	1

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirtythree parishes comprising the Rural District, seven parishes have a mains supply available and two parishes have part of the parish supplied with mains water.

The quality of the water is uncertain, due to the absence of sewerage schemes in all but two of the parishes. During the year seven water samples were reported on as unfit and seven as unsatisfactory.

During the year under review the level in the wells in the district was generally lower during dry periods than was said to be the case in previous years. Complaints of shortage of water were made.

The water supply at Brundall continues to be chlorinated.

Approximately 6,500 premises in the district are without a mains supply in or on the premises concerned and included in this number are approximately 500 premises whose inhabitants go to a standpipe.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review, no advance is apparent in the Council's efforts to provide sewerage schemes for the parishes of Ormesby, Hemsby, Martham, Acle, Brundall, Blofield and parts of Thorpe.

In addition it has been requested that sewerage for the parish of Winterton be given the same priority as Ormesby, Hemsby and Martham.

With the provision of mains water and sewerage in these larger villages it is considered that opportunities will be available for the expansion of suitable trades, thus providing employment for local residents.

### HOUSING.

The years of inactivity in repair and renewal of houses is evident in the present housing situation.

Not only are many new houses needed but many of the existing dwellings are urgently in need of modernising.

The temporary dwellings which are situated along the coast and rivers continue to create problems. These temporary dwellings are being used either as permanent houses all the year round or as weekly furnished huts in the summer months.



The absence of proper roads and path approaches, the absence of water supply and drainage, and pail closet sanitation coupled with the absence of control on the number of persons occupying these bungalows contribute to the present problems, which do not appear to be covered by present legislation.

From time to time dwellings have been visited which structurally are reaching the worn-out stage. This structural deterioration coupled in many cases with the absence of a proper drainage system and a communal water supply by means of a well gives rise to living conditions which cannot benefit the health of the inhabitants.

I am of the opinion that there are a number of properties throughout the district which are not in all respects fit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

Another aspect of the housing problem under present-day conditions is purely financial. There are a large number of dwellings in the rural parts of the district where the rents amount to only a few shillings each week. This means that the officers of the Council are continually being reminded that the owners of this type of property have no income to deal with any substantial repairs at existing prices.

Yet another important factor is the absence of mains water in many of the parishes. This in itself is retarding the reconditioning of many better-class properties and the provision of modern amenities. The need to safeguard well water supplies results in the absence of drainage systems.

As the housing shortage gets less acute I am of the opinion that the unfit dwellings should be demolished and alternative housing accommodation provided.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year under review further extensions to the scavenging scheme were made. This resulted in all the parishes in the rural district being included in the regular collections of household and wet refuse.

This means that all dwellings within the rural district which are adjoining a made road capable of supporting the Council's refuse vehicles, are receiving regular refuse collections.

It is interesting to note that the policy of provision of refuse collections throughout the rural district was agreed to at the end of 1946 and with extensions being made at regular intervals from the 1st. April, 1947, has resulted in the provision of collections covering all the district without exception.

When it is realised that there are over 263 miles of roads, such roadways being awkwardly situated due to the Broad and waterways, and that the area receives large numbers of visitors throughout the Season, the establishment and maintenance of a refuse collection service throughout the district is a major step in the maintenance of public health.

In addition to the scheme as outlined above, the Senior Sanitary Inspector informs me that, with the support of the Rural District Council, ashbins have been placed at nine points adjoining the waterways for regular collection of household refuse from the boats of all types frequenting the waterways which pass through the Rural District.

## FOOD SUPPLIES.

Supervision of food depots, shops and premises where food is prepared for sale has continued.

These visits and examination of particular foods have resulted in a variety of foodstuffs being condemned due to disease or otherwise being unwholesome.

The duties connected with the protection of the public food supply are of the greatest importance, and it is satisfactory to both the Council and their Officers that the protection of the health of the population of the district has been maintained by the efforts of those Officers engaged in this valuable public service.

Attention is again drawn to the sale of ice-cream with particular reference to the itinerant vendor. As this is a rural area with attractions for holiday-makers, it is obvious that these travelling salesmen can take every advantage of the fact that the sale of ice-cream from a vehicle is permissible without registration of the vehicle with the local authority.

This means that the Officers concerned with the inspection and supervision of food supplies have a very difficult task to keep a check on the quality and cleanliness of ice-cream sold from vehicles. The area of the district covers approximately one hundred and twenty square miles and such vehicles can come and go as it suits the pleasure of the salesman.

As ice-cream is an attraction for children of all ages, I consider that there is a need for increased control of the vendor who sells from a vehicle of any kind.

A table is given below of the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)		Not	known		
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	142
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	5.6 %
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.1 %

GENERAL.

The general standard of the health of the District has been maintained in spite of the movement of population throughout the year. This is all the more commendable when due regard is had to the absence in some areas of public services usually found in all urban areas, with particular emphasis on sewerage and water services.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the co-operation of the Council, Officers and all those concerned with the maintenance of the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the area during the year under review.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. O'DONOVAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

